



Mayor's Night Out Resident Questions
Airport Neighborhood
1/31/07

Resident #1:

What is the status on the remodeling of the Hardman Center? What are the delays that are holding up the Center's completion? What will the exterior landscaping look like?

The design/development plans for the Hardman Center remodeling project were recently approved by City staff. At this time, the remodeling project is well underway. The building facades have been updated through the use of a modern earth-tone color scheme accented by a stacked ledge stone material. The parking lot improvements will include re-stripping of the parking lot in accordance with current City standards and the incorporation of a greater number of landscape planters with canopy trees for shading the parking lot. Any mature trees that were removed as a result of the parking lot modifications will be required to be replaced with large specimen size trees to provide immediate shade. The final design of the parking lot landscaping and irrigation systems will be required to go through a thorough review process in the City's Planning Division to assure that replacement landscaping (both quantity and quality) is in compliance with City Design policies.

Resident #2:

What can neighborhood residents do to reduce the level of graffiti? Most neighborhood residents call 826-5311 but the problem is becoming excessive; are there any actions neighborhood residents can take?

Neighborhood residents can start or join a Neighborhood Watch in their neighborhood. Vigilance, prompt reporting and quick action are keys to combating graffiti vandalism. When graffiti is discovered after the fact (no witnesses to the incident, no suspect information), report it to the city's call center number, 826-5311. If someone observes the graffiti in progress, call Police non-emergency dispatch at 787-7911. Note possible suspect information, license plates, descriptions, etc. Filing a police report through RPD front counter reporting lines helps build criminal cases against taggers. Don't tolerate, excuse or ignore graffiti. Report it.

As graffiti prevention strategies, residents should check their property for tagger targets, like large block walls or fences. Many times landscaping can be added, making property less inviting to graffiti vandals. Remember, taggers' main purpose is to get their tagging up for as many people to see thus giving them "fame" or "notoriety." Sometimes, it is gang members, trying to "mark territory."

Talk to children and youth about graffiti vandalism and why it is wrong, especially if a parent or teacher sees telltale signs of graffiti-style doodling on books, papers, furniture or other surfaces. Discuss appropriate activities and outlets for creativity. Graffiti is vandalism – not art. It is a crime, and there are consequences. Tagging is not innocent fun; it often leads to more serious crime.

Just recently, the Police Department's four Neighborhood Policing Centers assigned personnel to work graffiti problems in their area, assisting the department's Graffiti Detective on these vandalism issues. In the first two months of 2007, Riverside Police have arrested 53 graffiti vandals. The District Attorney's Office is re-evaluating the process that graffiti vandals go through once they have been arrested. The City Attorney is promising to pursue taggers and their parents in civil court for the costs of enforcement and clean-up.

One of the most active groups involved with combating graffiti in our city is R.A.T. (Riverside Against Taggers) squad. Residents and business owners are encouraged to participate and become a member of this group comprised of individuals from the Police Department, Chamber of Commerce, Alvord and Riverside School Districts, Cal-Trans, Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works departments, County Probation, District Attorney's Office, and local legislators. Several area residents who recently attended these meetings have applied and become Riverside Police Department volunteers and are now working with the police to combat graffiti in their neighborhoods. Anyone interested in following up with one of these citizen-based programs to deal with graffiti and other issues, contact Police Service Representative Petite Cunningham at 353-7690.

Resident #3:

What measures can the City take to increase traffic enforcement at the intersection of Hillside and Dewey? Many drivers do not honor the stop signs and speed through the intersection.

The City has issued a work order to install an advance sign indicating "Stop Ahead" on Dewey east of Antioch approaching Hillside. This will advise motorists that a stop is upcoming.

Resident #4:

What can the City do to increase traffic enforcement on Central Ave. by the Airport? Drivers tend to speed down the eastbound lane between Shannon and Hillside. Additionally, many drivers tend to ignore the stop sign at the intersection on Hillside and Dewey. What can the City do to reduce the number of drivers not honoring the stop signs?

The Public Works Department notified the Riverside Police Department's Traffic Division and requested increased enforcement along Central Ave. the following day after Mayor's Night Out at the Janet Goeske Center. Additionally, as above mentioned, the Public Works Department issued a work order to install an advance sign indicating "Stop

Ahead" on Dewey east of Antioch approaching Hillside. This will advise motorists that a stop is upcoming.

Resident #5:

What can the City do to increase traffic enforcement on Highgrove and Mt. Vernon around SR91/Interstate 215? Is there any possibility of increasing the number of stop signs in this area?

This area is not in the city limits of Riverside, but in the unincorporated County of Riverside. The City has forwarded this request on to the County Traffic Engineer Lawrence Tai for his consideration.

Resident #6:

What is the process for requesting speed bumps on Antioch St.?

The City does often solve speeding concerns with alternate devices and would be happy to explore these options first with residents along Antioch. To start this process, a resident needs to call the Traffic Engineering Division at 826-5366.

The City allows speed humps on some residential streets when City Council established criteria have been met. This includes a variety of factors (number of vehicles, speed, curves, grade of street, etc.). There is also a cost involved for residents that wish to have speed humps installed on their street and signatures are required from all residents that live within 100 ft of the proposed humps.

Resident #7:

Can the City change the current policies for the traffic signal located at Shannon and Central? Right now, drivers cannot make a right hand turn onto Shannon from Central Ave. during a red light.

The "No right on Red" was installed to have drivers turning right only when traffic approaching is stopped. The traffic signal has been adjusted to ensure a green light from Shannon is given when a vehicle wants to turn right.

Resident #8:

Can the City explain the new policies/procedures for parking in Downtown? Why is the City now charging for parking Downtown?

The demand for parking downtown is increasing annually. Businesses who depend on street parking in front of their businesses were having increased difficulty because of long term parking by employees. The "Smart Park" program which launched in September of 2006 was designed to alleviate this problem. The implementation of more

meters in the downtown area has been successful in relocating long term parking to parking garages, freeing up the spaces on the street for short visits to local retail shops and restaurants. Since September, the Public Works Department has continued to evaluate the program and make appropriate modifications from public feedback. Over the next several months, the City will continue to make modifications in order to make downtown parking more user-friendly. Currently, the Smart Park program offers 90 minutes free with validation from retail and restaurants, free parking during the week before 9am & after 5pm, and free parking all day on the weekends.

Resident #9:

Can the City increase patrol and/or more aggressively enforce restricting large commercial trucks from parking on our streets in the Hillside Neighborhood?

The parking of large commercial vehicles is prohibited in most areas of the City, including the Hillside Neighborhood. Such vehicles are subject to being cited and if they remain on the public street for more than 72 hours, towed away. The Code Enforcement Division will increase patrols for this activity to address and ticket any illegally parked commercial vehicles. If you have specific addresses that you are concerned with, please contact the Code Enforcement Division at (951) 826-5633 and we will assign an Officer to investigate. Thank you for your commitment to making Riverside a more attractive community.